

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1650

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 0687

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WB, GE

SUBJECT: WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL

REF: STATE 70768

C/ Y FOR INMAN

1. MISSION CONSIDERS THAT, IN VIEW OF EXPRESSED SENAT SENSITIVITY, IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO STAGE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN WEST BERLIN DURING WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL THAT WOULD BEAR OVERT MARKS OF US SPONSORSHIP OR THAT WOULD REPRESENT OBVIOUS DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL SUMMERTIME CULTURAL SCENE. SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD NOT, IN OUR VIEW, EXCLUDE RELATIVELY ACTIVE AMERIKA HAUS PROGRAM, BUT IT WOULD IMPOSE CERTAIN LIMITATIONS ON WHAT IS DONE ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY. WITHIN THIS GENERAL FRAMEWORK, WE HAVE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS REGARDING PROGRAMMING POSSIBILITIES OUTLINED REFTTEL.

2. FROM PRACTICAL POINT OF VIEW IT IS NOW VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO SCHEDULE ELVIN JONES QUARTET WITHIN " JAZZ IN THE GARDEN" SERIES. THERE IS, HOWEVER, AN IMPRESARIO IN BERLIN WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SCHEDULING QUARTET DURING THE YOUTH FESTIVAL, PROVIDED ADEQUATE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE CAN BE MADE. BEFORE
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PROCEEDING FURTHER, MISSION WOULD NEED TO KNOW APPROXIMATE REMUNERATION FOR QUARTET AND EXTENT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT THAT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING FROM DEPARTMENT. IN SCHEDULING JAZZ PERFORMANCE OF THIS KIND, IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT GREAT MAJORITY OF AUDIENCE WILL STILL BE WEST BERLINERS OR OTHER WEST GERMANS IN TOWN. FURTHERMORE, FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS FROM DEVELOPING WORLD WILL DOUBTLESS BE UNABLE TO AFFORD MORE THAN NOMINAL ADMISSION FEE. IT MIGHT EVEN BE ADVISABLE TO ADMIT FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS GRATIS, OR FOR TOKEN FEE UPON PRESENTATION OF " BUMMELPASS," WHICH WE UNDERSTAND LANDESJUGENDRING INTENDS TO ISSUE PARTICIPANTS WHO STOP BY ITS INFORMATION KIOSKS. IN THIS CASE, IMPRESARIO WOULD PROBABLY BE UNABLE TO RECOVER COSTS FROM ADMISSION FEES, AND US WOULD PERHAPS NEED TO FUND SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF EXPENSES. IDEAL SITE FOR JAZZ PERFORMANCE WOULD BE AUDITORIUM OF HOCHSCHULE FUER MUSIK, SITUATED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO MAJOR ENTRY POINT FROM EAST BERLIN, WITH CAPACITY FOR 1,300. SPECTATORS.

3. EXHIBITION OF CONTEMPORARY GRAPHIC ARTISTS IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN BERLIN WITH FULLY ADEQUATE CATALOG IN ENGLISH, GERMAN, AND SWEDISH. PRESENCE OF WELL- KNOWN AMERICAN ARTIST WOULD BE ATTRACTIVE BONUS, SHOULD ONE HAPPEN TO BE IN EUROPE AND AVAILABLE AT THE TIME. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, WHETHER IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO BRING ARTIST OVER FROM US FOR ONE OR POSSIBLY TWO LECTURES/ SEMINARS IN AMERIKA HAUS (EXHIBITION OPENS IN JUNE, SO THERE WOULD BE NO QUESTION OF HIS BEING PRESENT ON OPENING DAY).

4. EXHIBITS OF CONTEMPORARY ART POSTERS AND OF GRADUATE STUDENTS PRINTS WOULD BE IMPRACTICAL IN VIEW OF SPACE LIMITATIONS IN AMERIKA HAUS.

5. SALE OF POSTERS COULD POSSIBLY BE ARRANGED THROUGH OUTLET IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO AMERIKA HAUS AND ENTRY- POINT FROM EAST BERLIN. WE FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WOULD BE OF MARGINAL VALUE TO OVER- ALL OBJECTIVE. FOR REASONS NOTED ABOVE, WE WOULD NOT WANT TO ADVERTISE SPECIAL PROMOTIONAL SALE DURING FESTIVAL, AND, IN ANY
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CASE, MOST SALES WOULD BE TO WEST BERLINERS RATHER THAN

TO CATEGORIES OF FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS IN WHOM WE PRIMARILY INTERESTED.

6. MISSION WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING FURTHER IDEA OF SHOWING EXPERIMENTAL FILMS FROM TOKYO CULTURAL CENTER. THESE COULD BE OFFERED TO LOCAL BERLIN EXPERIMENTAL CINEMA OR, ALTERNATIVELY, SHOWN IN CONJUNCTION WITH BUSTER KEATON RETROSPECTIVE NOW SCHEDULED FOR FESTIVAL PERIOD. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT AIRPOUCHING CATALOG ASAP.

7. WE BELIEVE THAT SETTING UP OF JAZZ, ART, OR FILM WORKSHOPS WOULD BE IMPRACTICAL, SINCE THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY GENERALLY REQUIRES THAT A SPECIFIC GROUP OF PEOPLE WORK TOGETHER OVER PERIOD OF SEVERAL DAYS. FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS WILL IN ALL LIKELIHOOD BE ABLE TO VISIT WEST BERLIN FOR BRIEF PERIODS ONLY.

8. WE WOULD NOT FAVOR SUGGESTION CONTAINED IN PENULTIMATE PARA OF REFTEL THAT ACTIVITIES DURING FESTIVAL WEEK BE COORDINATED IN ONE LOCALE WITH PLENTY OF YOUNG AMERICANS ON TAP. THIS WOULD BOTH HIGHLIGHT US SPONSORSHIP AND CONSTITUTE A "SPECIAL" EVEN OF THE SORT THAT SENAT WOULD WANT TO AVOID.

9. AT MEETING WITH SENAT OFFICIALS REPORTED IN BERLIN 595, MISSION OFFICERS WERE ADVISED THAT LANDESJUGENDRING WOULD NOT BE AVERSE TO DISCUSSING THEIR PLANNED FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES WITH US, BUT WOULD PROBABLY NOT WELCOME DIRECT US COOPERATION OR ASSISTANCE (FINANCIAL OR OTHERWISE). WE THEREFORE DO NOT FAVOR APPROACHING LANDESJUGENDRING FOR ASSISTANCE IN POSTER SALES; BUT IT WOULD SEEM QUITE APPROPRIATE TO REQUEST THAT AMERIKA HAUS PROGRAMS BE INCLUDED AMONG INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS FOR DISTRIBUTION. MISSION WILL EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY FURTHER WITH LANDESJUGENDRING MEMBERS. KLEIN

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